<u>REMARKS/ARGUMENTS</u>

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested. Claims 18-34 are currently pending in the application. No claim amendments are presented, thus no new matter is added.

In the Office Action Claims 18, 25 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by <u>Grynberg</u> (U.S. Pat. 7,216,227); and Claims 19-24, 26-29 and 31-34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over <u>Grynberg</u> in view of <u>Sasyan et al.</u> (U.S. Pat. 6,804,247, herein <u>Sasyan</u>).

Claims 18, 25 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by <u>Grynberg</u>. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, as independent Claims 18, 25 and 30 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Independent Claim 18, for example, is directed to a mail delivery system (Fig. 1) that receives an alias mail having an alias address (e.g., X(R,C)) different from a recipient address (e.g., R) as a destination and replaces the destination with the recipient address (e.g., R) to transfer the alias mail. The mail delivery system also receives a reply mail responding to the alias mail and replaces the recipient address (e.g., R) in the reply mail with the alias address (e.g., X(R,C)) as a transmission source of the reply mail to transfer the reply mail.

To this end, Claim 18 further recites that the system includes an alias mail processing unit (e.g., alias mail relay server 10) that restores, when an alias mail having an alias address (X(R,C)) generated from the recipient address (R) and a predetermined generation argument (C) as a destination is received, the recipient address (R) and the generation argument (C) from the alias address, replaces the destination of the alias mail with the recipient address (R), and includes the generation argument (C) in the alias mail to transfer the alias mail. The mail delivery system also includes a reply mail processing unit (e.g., remailer 20) that acquires, when a reply mail responding to the alias mail transferred by the alias mail

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processing unit is received, the generation argument (C) from the reply mail, regenerates the

alias address (X) from the generation argument (C) and a recipient address (R) indicating a

transmission source of the reply mail, and replaces the transmission source of the reply mail

with the alias address to transfer the reply mail. As described in an exemplary embodiment at

Fig. 3 and paragraphs [0063] and [0075]-[0080] of the specification, the address converting

unit 22 of the remailer 20 regenerates the alias address (X(R,C)) from the regeneration

argument (C) and the recipient address (R) so that the address of the recipient appears as the

alias address (X) when a reply is transmitted in response to the received alias mail.

Specifically, independent Claim 18 is directed to a mail delivery system, comprising:

> an alias mail processing unit that restores, when an alias mail having
> an alias address generated from the recipient address and a predetermined
> generation argument as a destination is received, the recipient address and the
> generation argument from the alias address, replaces the destination of the
> alias mail with the recipient address, and includes the generation argument in
> the alias mail to transfer the alias mail; and
> a reply mail processing unit that acquires, when a reply mail
> responding to the alias mail transferred by the alias mail processing unit is
> received, the generation argument from the reply mail, regenerates the alias
> address from the generation argument and a recipient address indicating a
> transmission source of the reply mail, and replaces the transmission source of
> the reply mail with the alias address to transfer the reply mail.

Independent Claims 25 and 30, while directed to alternative embodiments, recite

similar features. Accordingly, the remarks and arguments presented below are applicable to

each of independent Claims 18, 25 and 30.

Turning to the applied reference, Grynberg describes a system comprising alias

address creation software used to generate multiple alias addresses representing a single real

address of a particular recipient.[1] Each alias address is computed from data representing a

prospective sender and a recipient, and a sender is provided with an alias address by a

recipient for communicating back to said recipient. Messages sent by a sender, employing

alias addresses are analyzed by a forwarding server which validates each alias address and

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[1] Grynberg, Abstract.

checks it against a blocking list. Messages which pass these checks are directed to the

recipient's real address registered with said forwarding server.

Grynberg, therefore, is similar to the systems described in the "Background" portion

of the specification, and merely describes a system by which a user may select an alias, which

is then compared to various aliases in a mail server to determine the messages that may

ultimately be passed to the user. Thus, Grynberg fails to teach or suggest a mail delivery

system that includes, *inter alia*, "an alias mail processing unit that restores ... the generation

argument from the alias address, replaces the destination of the alias mail with the recipient

address, and includes the generation argument in the alias mail to transfer the alias mail ...

and a reply mail processing unit that acquire ... the generation argument from the reply mail,

regenerates the alias address from the generation argument and a recipient address ... and

replaces the transmission source of the reply mail with the alias address to transfer the reply

mail" as recited in independent Claim 18.

In rebutting the previously presented arguments regarding the "alias mail processing

unit" feature, p. 3 of the Office Action relies on col. 4, ll. 46-57, col. 5, ll. 51-62 and col. 8, ll.

59-61 of Grynberg, noting that the reference "discloses concatenating information (the

general argument) with a Recipient ID (recipient address) to generate an alias address for

outgoing e-mails including reply mail." More particularly, col. 4, ll. 46-57 of Grynberg

describes a process for generating alias addresses for particular users by using a unique name

(or ID) for each Recipient, concatenated with additional information such as a random

number, time of day or an identifier related to a Sender entity. Col. 5, ll. 51-62 of Grynberg

again describes a process that occurs to create an alias address in which the alias address may

be decrypted to reveal the contents of the alias address. Finally, col. 8, ll. 59-61 of Grynberg

describes that when a sender 102 receives e-mail, it would send a reply using the alias

address as an origination address, thus the recipients original e-mail address is protected.

However, as discussed above, the claimed alias mail processing unit "restores the recipient address and the generation argument from the alias address, replaces the destination of the alias mail with the recipient address, and *includes the generation argument in the alias mail to transfer the alias mail*, when an alias mail having an alias address generated from the recipient address and a predetermined generation argument as a destination is received". Grynberg fails to teach or suggest a process of sending the "generation argument" to the destination, after the destination of the alias mail is replaced with the recipient address. As noted above, the Office Action asserts that the claimed "generation argument" corresponds to the information that is concatenated with the Recipient ID to generate an alias address. However, the concatenated information is not included in the message to the destination, after the destination of the alias mail is replaced with the recipient address, as claimed.

More particularly, col. 4, ll. 1-25 of Grynberg describes that a Sender 102, wishing to contact Recipient 101 prepares an e-mail message 102c addressed with Alias Address 101b. An e-mail message 102c is sent by a standard e-mail client program 102a to an e-mail distribution server 102b, which resolves the Internet address represented by Alias Address 101b into an IP address. The e-mail message 102c is received by a Forwarding Server 103 which invokes a Validation program 103a to check the authenticity of Alias Address 101b carried in the header of the message 102c. After validation, the e-mail message 102c is forwarded to a Blocking list filter 103b which looks up the Alias Address 101b in a blocking list database. If the Alias Address is not included in the database, the e-mail message 105b is modified 103e so that it is addressed now to its final destination by retrieving Recipient's true e-mail address from database 103g, and the e-mail message 103e is now sent to its final destination using standard e-mail sending software SMTP server 103f.

Grynberg, therefore, describes that the Alias Address, including any information concatenated thereto, is replaced with an address corresponding to its final destination. Thus, Grynberg fails to disclose alias mail processing unit that "restores the recipient address and the generation argument from the alias address, replaces the destination of the alias mail with the recipient address, and *includes the generation argument in the alias mail to transfer the alias mail*, when an alias mail having an alias address generated from the recipient address and a predetermined generation argument as a destination is received" as recited in independent Claim 1.

Further, Grynberg fails to disclose "a reply mail processing unit that *acquires the generation argument from the reply mail, regenerates the alias address from the generation argument* and a recipient address indicating a transmission source of the reply mail, and replaces the transmission source of the reply mail with the alias address to transfer the reply mail when a reply mail responding to the alias mail transferred by the alias mail processing unit is received", which is also a feature required in independent Claim 1.

Instead, at cols. 3-5 for example, Grynberg describes that a recipient user 101 uses software 101a to create an alias, which is sent to a would be sender 102 for sending future e-mails to the recipient. These aliases may be stored in a server 103 which checks each received e-mail for authenticity (e.g., checks that the alias corresponds to recipient and are not on blocking list, etc.), and forwards the email to the recipient 101 when the received e-mail passes the validation check at the server 103.

In contrast, Claim 18 recites that the reply mail processing unit acquires *a generation argument* and *a recipient address* (actual address) from a reply mail and *generates the alias address from the generation argument and a recipient address*. Grynberg, in contrast, describes that the recipient user 101 generates the alias themselves using software on a desktop computer and informs a would be sender 102 of the alias for future communications.

At no point does Grynberg teach or suggest anything similar to a mail processing unit that acquires a generation argument and an actual recipient address *when a reply mail responding to the alias mail transferred by the alias mail processing unit is received* and generates the alias address from these two components to formulate a reply e-mail, as claimed.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 be withdrawn. For substantially similar reasons it is also submitted that independent Claims 25 and 30 patentably define over Grynberg.

Claims 19-24, 26-29 and 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Grynberg in view of Sasyan. However, as Claims 19-24, 26-29 and 31-34 include the above-differentiated features of Claim 18 by virtue of independent recitation or dependency, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims also patentably define over the applied references. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Sasyan fails to remedy any of the above noted deficiencies of Grynberg.
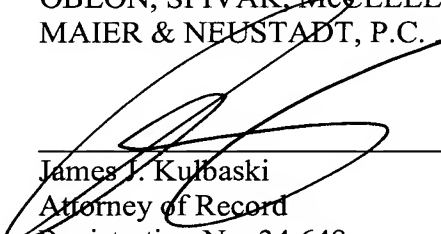
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 19-24, 26-29 and 31-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 18-34 is definite and patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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